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# Food and Nutrition

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## Workshop Focuses on Public Assistance Withholding

A NATIONAL WORKSHOP sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Welfare in cooperation with USDA was held on March 2 and 3 in Charleston, W. Va., on the public assistance withholding requirement of the 1971 amendments to food stamp legislation.

The food stamp workshop demonstrated to the 27 attending State delegations the ease with which West Virginia has been able to implement the procedure of withholding purchase requirements from public assistance grants and mailing the stamps to recipients.

West Virginia was the first State to implement public assistance withholding on a statewide basis. The method has received enthusiastic support from many food stamp participants throughout the State.

West Virginia Commissioner of Welfare Edwin F. Flowers was instrumental in the planning and presentation of the workshop. In addition to officials from the West Virginia Department of Welfare and FNS national and regional offices, delegates at the workshop included representatives from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Office of Economic Opportunity, and USDA's Office of the Inspector General.

The two-day meeting featured presentations by West Virginia State and area staff on the philosophy, procedures and mechanics of the PAW system of food stamp distribution, including the use of the State's advanced electronic data processing equipment.

## New Food Coupon Books Tested

A SERIES OF four new food coupon books is being introduced on a pilot basis in an effort to assist State agencies in implementing public assistance withholding.

The coupon books will come in denominations equivalent to household size: they will contain total coupon allotments of \$32, \$60, \$88, and \$108 for one, two, three and four-person households, respectively. Each of the books will include a number of all three of the present coupon denominations (50¢, \$2, \$5); currently, each of these denominations comes in a separate coupon book.

To reach the total coupon allotment for households with more than four persons, State agencies will issue suitable combinations of the new coupon books with existing book denominations of \$2, \$3, \$10, and \$30.

State agencies in the following areas will begin mailing books to recipients



in March: West Virginia; Arkansas; Kansas; Washington; San Mateo and Sonoma Counties in California; and Horry, Richland, and Charleston Counties in South Carolina.

At the end of the pilot test, FNS will evaluate the reaction of both State agencies and recipients to determine the feasibility of expanding the use of the new books nationwide.

## STATES IMPLEMENT NEW FOOD STAMP ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

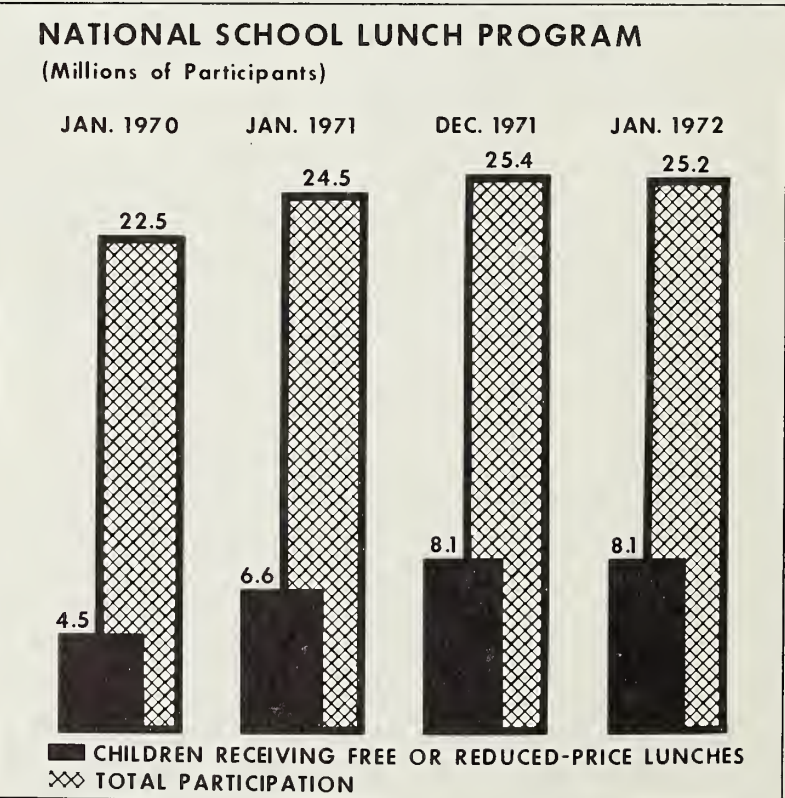
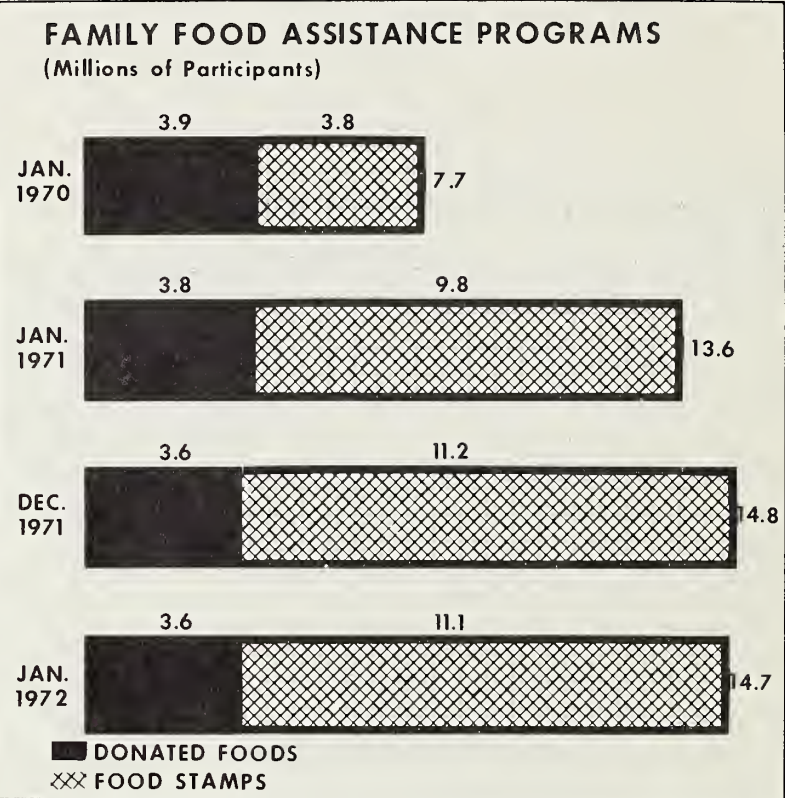
FORTY-SIX STATES and the District of Columbia currently have food stamp programs. Thirty of these States and the District of Columbia have implemented the new eligibility standards, and an additional 13 States are scheduled to begin April 1, 1972. Of the 31 State agencies currently using the revised eligibility standards, 20 are operating under the July 29, 1971 basis of issuance standards, and 11 have switched over to the revised standards set on January 26, 1972. Those States which have not yet made the switch are required to do so on or before April 1, 1972. Negotiations are underway with three States on acceptable implementation dates for both eligibility and basis of issuance standards.

## NEW LOOK FOR DONATED FOODS

DONATED FOODS RECIPIENTS who have poor reading skills or who speak only Spanish will not need to fret much longer over which food is which. That's because the package labels on donated foods have been redesigned. The first donated food to be packaged with a new label will be concentrated grape juice, scheduled for shipment in April and May.

The new labels, which are in two colors, are printed in easy-to-read lettering

and feature the name of each food in Spanish and English. Every label carries an illustration showing the package's contents or the types of dishes that can be prepared. Where possible, the color of an illustration corresponds to the actual food color. Recipes, suggestions for using the food, and storage information also are listed to help recipients make the best use of the foods.





## National School Lunch Numbers Clarified

THE NUMBERS in the National School Lunch Participation chart in the February 22, 1972, newsletter should read as follows: December 1969, 23.1 million total, of which 4.6 million received lunches free or at a reduced price; December 1970, 24.2 million total, of which 5.9 million received free or reduced-price lunches; November 1971, 25.3 million total, of which 8.1 million ate free or reduced-price lunches; and in December 1971, 25.4 million total, of which 8.1 million received free or reduced-price lunches.

## NEEDY CHILDREN REMAIN ANONYMOUS

AS REQUIRED by Public Law 91-248, signed by the President on May 14, 1970, schools participating in the National School Lunch Program must agree to protect the anonymity of children receiving meals free or at a reduced price.

A list of methods of collecting school lunch money that have been found effective in accomplishing this has been sent by the Food and Nutrition Service to State school lunch directors for dissemination to schools.

The following procedures, based on observations of collection procedures during audits of school lunch programs, are recommended:

- The homeroom teacher provides each child with an envelope for daily or weekly lunch payments. Students paying full or reduced prices return the envelopes with payment to the teacher or school office; those receiving free lunches return the envelopes with their names on slips of paper. At a specified time either the school office or the teacher issues identical tickets or tokens to the children.

- All children except those specifically excused are required to eat in the cafeteria everyday--either the school lunch or lunch brought from home. Parents are billed monthly or quarterly (in advance or later) for the lunches served to their children. The parents of children who are eligible for free lunches are not billed, while the parents whose children are eligible for a reduced-price lunch are billed at the reduced amount.

- The State agency administering the school lunch program coordinates with the appropriate welfare agencies to expedite the approval of children to receive free or reduced-price lunches.

Children from families receiving public assistance or food stamps receive lunch tickets directly by mail from the welfare office, which notifies the school as to the number of tickets issued. The paying students obtain their tickets at the school or other designated points prior to lunch. Identical tickets are used by all students.

## CITY YOUTH BAKE BREAD FOR MISSOURI FAMILIES

THE HUMAN RESOURCES Corporation of Jackson County, Missouri, has developed a plan that provides freshly baked bread for food help participants--and opportunities for inner city youth to learn baking skills.

As part of the organization's job training program, youth from the Kansas City area prepare one-pound loaves of bread using USDA-donated bread flour, dried milk, egg mix, corn syrup, shortening, and oatmeal.

The bread is issued to Jackson County food distribution program participants at the rate of one loaf per household each month. Over 6,000 households participate in the program.

# SCHOOL BREAKFAST REGULATIONS PROPOSED

ON FEBRUARY 25, USDA announced proposed changes in the regulations for the School Breakfast Program to implement changes contained in Public Law 92-32. Major changes in the proposed regulations are:

- "Free breakfast" is defined as a breakfast served to eligible children for which neither the child nor any member of his family pays or is required to work in the school or in the school's food service.

- "Reduced-price breakfast" is defined as a breakfast served to eligible children at a price of 10 cents or less and which is less than the full price of the breakfast.

- In other than especially needy schools, the maximum rate of reimbursement for a reduced-price breakfast served to eligible children is 15 cents, and 20 cents is the maximum rate for a free breakfast. The maximum rate of reimbursement is 5 cents for a breakfast fully paid by the child. (Under regulations now in effect, all breakfasts are reimbursed up to a maximum of 15 cents each.)

- An especially needy school may receive up to 100 percent of the cost of operating the school's nonprofit breakfast program, provided that the total reimbursement does not exceed 20 cents for each reduced-price breakfast served to children meeting the eligibility standards, and a maximum of 25 cents for each free breakfast. (Present regulations authorize reimbursement up to 80 percent of the actual cost of operating

a breakfast program.)

- The school food authority of schools participating in the program must submit for approval to the State Agency or the FNS Regional Office a free and reduced-price breakfast policy statement, or affirm that eligibility for free or reduced-price breakfasts shall be determined in accordance with the school food authority's policy statement on eligibility for free and reduced-price lunches.

- In selecting schools for operation of the School Breakfast Program, the State Agency or FNS Regional Office must give first consideration not only to schools drawing attendance from areas in which poor economic conditions exist and to those schools to which a substantial portion of the students enrolled travel long distances, but also to schools in which there is a special need for improving the nutrition and dietary practices of children of working mothers and children from low-income families.

These changes in the regulations are proposed to be effective July 1, 1972. The proposed regulations were published in the Federal Register on Saturday, February 26, 1972.

Comments, suggestions, or objections are invited and may be delivered or mailed by March 27, 1972 to Herbert D. Rorex, Director, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Communications should identify the regulations section and paragraph on which comments are offered.